



# Provider Relations Outreach Specialist

124.150 Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB)

1-1-16

The Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) group was created by the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act and uses Medicaid funds to assist low-income Medicare beneficiaries. QMBs do not receive the full range of Medicaid benefits. For example, QMBs do not receive prescription drug benefits from Medicaid or drugs not covered under Medicare Part D. If a person is eligible for QMB, Medicaid pays the Medicare Part B premium, the Medicare Part B deductible and the Medicare Part B coinsurance, less any Medicaid cost sharing, for Medicare covered medical services. Medicaid also pays the Medicare Part A hospital deductible and the Medicare Part A coinsurance, less any Medicaid cost sharing. Medicaid pays the Medicare Part A premium for QMBs whose employment history is insufficient for Title XVIII to pay it. Certain QMBs may be eligible for other limited Medicaid services. Only individuals considered to be Medicare/Medicaid dually eligible qualify for coverage of Medicaid services that Medicare does not cover.

To be eligible for QMB, individuals must be age 65 or older, blind or an individual with a disability and enrolled in Medicare Part A or conditionally eligible for Medicare Part A. Their countable income may equal but may not exceed 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Countable resources may be equal to but not exceed twice the current Supplemental Security Income (SSI) resource limitations.

Generally, individuals may not be certified in a QMB category and in another Medicaid category simultaneously. However, some QMBs may simultaneously receive assistance in the medically needy categories, SOBRA pregnant women (61 and 62). QMB generally do not have Medicaid coverage for any service that is not covered under Medicare; with the exception of the above listed categories and individuals dually eligible.

Individuals eligible for QMB receive a plastic Medicaid ID card. Providers must view the electronic eligibility display to verify the QMB category of service. The category of service for a QMB will reflect QMB-AA, QMB-AB or QMB-AD. The system will display the current eligibility.

Most providers are not federally mandated to accept Medicare assignment (See Section 142.700). However, if a physician (by Medicare's definition) or non-physician provider desires Medicaid reimbursement for coinsurance or deductible on a Medicare claim, he or she must accept Medicare assignment on that claim (see Section 142.200 D) and enter the information required by Medicare on assigned claims. When a provider accepts Medicare according to Section 142.200 D, the beneficiary is not responsible for the difference between the billed charges and the Medicare allowed amount. Medicaid will pay a QMB's or Medicare/Medicaid dual eligible's Medicare cost sharing (less any applicable Medicaid cost sharing) for Medicare covered services.

Interested individuals may be directed to apply for the QMB program at their local Department of Human Services (DHS) county office.